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Date: September 26, 2003

W. Liddell
Wilburn Liddell, Jr.

PATENT
876635-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: DEBEER et al.

Art Unit: 3738

Serial No.: 10/052,758

Examiner: Thomas C. Barrett

Filed: January 18, 2002

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
CLOSING SEPTAL DEFECTS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 27, 2003, which required restriction of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicants respectfully elect without traverse Species I, sub-species ii, sub-sub-species a. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 20, and 23 are readable on the elected species, sub-species, and sub-sub-species. Accordingly, an examination on the merits of the elected claims is respectfully requested.

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While the Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in the fees, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian M. Berliner
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 34,549

Date: September 26, 2003

O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP
400 South Hope Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2899
Telephone: (213) 430-6000